

Remarks

In the present application, claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled, and proposed amendments have been presented for claims 3, 4, 24 and 27. Claims 3 to 27 remain pending. Entry of the proposed amendments and reexamination and reconsideration in view of the amendments and the arguments below are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections for Anticipation

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 24 to 27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Shimizu, Japanese Patent Document No. 2000 267611. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled. Proposed amendments to claims 4, 24 and 27 are presented above to have the claims depend from claim 3. Claim 5 depends from claim 4, claims 25 and 26 depend from claim 24. As presented below, Applicant submits that claim 3 with the proposed amendments will be in condition for allowance. Thus, claims 4, 5, and 24 to 27 with the proposed amendments will also be in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to claims 3 and 6 to 23 as depending from a rejected base claim but the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Amendments to claim 3 have been proposed to rewrite claim 3 in independent form and include all the elements of the prior claim 1. Claims 6 to 23 depend from and further limit claim 3. Applicant submits that claim 3 as amended and claims 6 to 23 are in

condition for immediate allowance. Entry of the amendments to claim 3 are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that entry of the proposed amendments will render pending claims 3 to 27 in condition for immediate allowance. Entry of the proposed amendments and issuance of Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

A request for an extension of time for one month to file this Response is submitted herewith and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the appropriate fee for a small entity against Deposit Account 07-1509.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Amendment and Response After Final Rejection, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative by e-mail or telephone as noted below.

Respectfully submitted,

GODFREY & KAHN, S.C.

Dated: January 2, 2008

By: /Alan R. Stewart/
Alan R. Stewart
Reg. No. 47,974

Attorney of Record for Applicant
GODFREY & KAHN, S.C.
780 North Water Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202-3590
Telephone: 414-273-3500
Facsimile: 414-273-5198
Email: astewart@gklaw.com

ap68504_1